

Peter Martin slips and Wolverton snatch deserved replay

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Wolverton Town and B.R. 3

A TRAGIC error in extra-time by newcomer Peter Martin cost Wycombe Wanderers a definite place in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup-final. Instead of booking their passage for Easter Monday's final Wycombe supporters must first await the outcome of tomorrow's semi-final replay.

Ex-Royal Navy player Martin had a miserable afternoon against Wolverton's lively Hamilton who, capitalising on Martin's mistake gave his side another bite at the cherry 12 minutes from the end.

One would hesitate to describe the 120 minutes of football as a pulsating cup-tie but what did materialise more than held one's attention.

Wycombe opened confidently enough taking a ninth minute lead. Faulkner pushed a high cross into the Wolverton goalmouth and Merrick's effort rebounded straight to Busby, who pushed the ball back for Samuels, with almost arrogant ease, to stroke sweetly into the top right hand corner.

OFF THE LINE

Wolverton equalised almost on the stroke of half-time, after they had wasted a number of good openings including once when Rundle cleared off the line. Samuels charged down a free-kick and Smith whipped over a centre which Tansley back-headed over Maskell, who was caught well out of goal.

Four minutes after the resumption Wolverton went ahead when Maskell, being harassed by Alterbury, dropped Tansley's in-swinging corner and Hamilton slotted the ball past Faulkner on the goal-line.

Busby who had been struggling from the start had a good opportunity to level the scores but wasted the chance heading over when well placed. Former Wanderers favourite George Blair set-up numerous moves for Wolverton from which Hamilton profited always willing to try his luck.

However, Wycombe equalised in the 62nd minute with a glorious goal. Worley flashed over a hard cross and Samuels just needed to dip his head slightly forward to steer the ball past Cleaver.

Both sides had plenty of near-misses in the last phase Wolverton looking the more dangerous when Faulkner cleared off the line and Maskell made a brilliant split-second reaction save from Hamilton.

Wanderers' Gale came off after 90 minutes with a bruised toe and Mick Calvert came on. It was surprising to see Samuels remain at wing-half — where he had been for the last 20 minutes since Gale's injury — considering he looked Wycombe's most deadly forward.

Three minutes into the first period of extra-time Wycombe were presented with the lead. Baker's cross was dropped by Cleaver and Holmes poked the ball in. It was hard luck on Cleaver, who had been Wolverton's hero on a number of occasions with some smart saves.

Just as it appeared Wycombe were in command a hopeful clearance upfield was missed by Martin and Hamilton strode on to crack a fine shot past Maskell.